THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) An MoU has been signed in January, 2003 between the MInistry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of Petroleum, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector including import of LNG from Iran to India, assistance in refinery revamp, development of CNG in Iran etc. Oil companies from both the countries have to workout necessary details in this regard. No investment deal for 25 years has been signed.

(b) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) a Joint Venture Company promoted by four Public Sector Oil Companies *viz.* GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporaton Limited (ONGCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has singed a 25 years agreement with Ras Gas, Qatar for supply of 7.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) LNG for its LNG terminals at Dahej and Cochin.

(c) The first cargo of LNG is expected to reach Dahej LNG terminal in December, 2003.

Incentives to LNG plants

1742. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give special fiscal and other incentives to LNG plants, if so, the details thereof;

(b) in what manner this would help in raising its production; and

(c) how much it will benefit the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to bridge large gap between demand and supply of natural gas, Government is considering extension of various fiscal concessions such as uniform sales tax structure, reduction in customs duty, declaring LNG projects as infrastructure projects etc., for LNG projects.

(b) The proposed fiscal concession would bring down the price of LNG and would benefit Power, Fertilizer and other natural gas consuming Sectors.

LPG godowns in residential areas

1743. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some godowns of LPG cylinders are situated in and around residential colonies in Delhi thereby posing threat to life and property of residents;

(b) whether any survey has been done to identify such godowns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) It is a fact that LPG godowns of certain LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are situated in residential areas in Delhi. However, all LPG godowns of LPG distributors of Delhi are having valid explosive licences and other statutory clearances from local authorities. As the godowns are in confirmity to explosives rules they do not pose threat to life and property in the surrounding areas.

Implementation of Mashelkar committee report

1744. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sent a note to the Ministry of Finance for implementation of Mashelkar Committee Report for a Comprehensive Auto Policy;

(b) whehter the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has also sent a proposal to Government in connection with vehicular emission norms;

(c) if so, by when the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is going to introduce Euro-III norms in the country together with equivalent Euro-IV norms at least in some of the major cities of the country; and